

Press Release  
For Immediate Release  
July 7, 2016

For More Information:  
Mike Boley, Visitor Services Coordinator  
(806) 671-2817  
Mike.Boley@amarillo.gov

**World Snake Day**  
Amarillo Zoo  
Saturday, July 16, 2016  
1:00pm – 3:00pm

Gather up your little naturalist and slither out to the Amarillo Zoo to celebrate World Snake Day! On Saturday, July 16 from 1pm – 3pm bring the family out for fun, entertainment and hands on encounters with snakes from around the world. This day of scaly fun is geared towards the entire family and is included in the general admission to the Zoo.

Snakes are often portrayed as creepy, dangerous and aggressive creatures but contrary to what people think, these animals play a vital role in our environment and are generally shy and reclusive. During the event you can learn about the truths and misconceptions that surround snakes while learning to appreciate their value to a healthy environment.

Excitement awaits you.....

- Visit the Herpetarium and see pythons, anaconda, alligator snapping turtle and other native and exotic species of reptiles and amphibians.
- Join the “I Touched a Snake Club”
- SSSSSuper cool snake crafts to make and take home
- Keeper chats and more!

**Fun Facts**

- ✓ There are more than 3,000 different species of snakes.
- ✓ Snake size varies to extremes by species. At up to 30 feet long, the reticulated python is the longest snake. At a minuscule 4 inches, the Barbados thread snake is the smallest.

- ✓ The green anaconda isn't the longest snake, but it is the heaviest – they can grow up to 550 pounds!
- ✓ Snakes are found on every continent except Antarctica.
- ✓ Snakes have no eyelids or external ears, and use their forked tongues!
- ✓ Snakes are ectotherms, meaning they must regulate their body temperature externally by sunning themselves or retreating to cool, shaded areas.
- ✓ Snakes eat their prey whole and are able to consume prey larger than the diameter of their head because their lower jaw can separate from the upper jaw.
- ✓ A recently discovered fossil snake was 49 feet long, longer than a school bus!

**The event is free with Zoo admission:**

Adult (13-61) \$4

Senior (62 and up) \$3

Children (3-12) \$2

2 and Under Free

The Zoo is located at NE 24<sup>th</sup> Ave and Dumas Highway inside Thompson Park. For more information be sure to visit our website [www.amarillozoo.org](http://www.amarillozoo.org) and follow us on Facebook.